

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 04508 250218Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-10 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 SS-15

SP-02 HA-05 EB-08 /055 W

-----102854 250221Z /70

P 250119Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO USICA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6116

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 04508

FOR CINCPAC FOR USICA ADVISOR, STATE FOR EA/ANZ

EO 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT

1. WITH NEW ZEALAND GOING THROUGH THE ELECTION BUILDUP PERIOD THE SOCIAL CREDIT PARTY, WHICH HAS A LONE SEAT IN PARLIAMENT, HAS BEEN HOLDING ITS ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO PLAN A CAMPAIGN WHICH COULD BE VITAL TO ITS FUTURE IN COMING YEARS.

2. THROUGHOUT THE WEEK IT WAS HARD TO AVOID THE EXPOSURE OF THE PRIME MINISTER IN CONTROVERSIAL MATTERS, SUCH AS HIS INTERVENTION IN THE FISHING AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN, DISPUTES WITH THE HALT ALL RACIST TOURS OVER THE COMMON-WEALTH GAMES BAN BY NIGERIA AND WITH THE AUTHOR OF A MULDOON BIOGRAPHY, AND A FIGHT WITH THE OPPOSITION OVER A CURRENT COURT CASE IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS BEING SUED FOR \$1 MILLION. AS WELL, THE CHRISTCHURCH PRESS" REPORTED HIM AS SAYING THE GOVERNMENT WAS "SERIOUSLY CONCERNED" ABOUT THE U.S. BILL TO AMEND THE MEAT IMPORT ACT AND WAS SEEKING TO AVOID ANY SORT OF COUNTER-CYCLICAL ARRANGEMENT.

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3. THE FLUCTUATIONS OF THE U.S. DOLLAR CONTINUED TO DEMAND COVERAGE AND THE TWO MAJOR MORNING NEWSPAPERS, THE CHRISTCHURCH "PRESS" AND THE NEW ZEALAND "HERALD," COMMENTED EDITORIALY ON THE SITUATION. THE "PRESS" SAID IT WAS WELL FOR NEW ZEALAND THAT THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION HAD SHOWN SUCH AN AWARENESS OF THE IMPACT OF THE AMERICAN

ECONOMY ON WORLD TRADE, WHILE THE "HERALD" FELT THAT THERE WOULD BE NO QUICK SOLUTION IN SIGHT FOR THE ERRATIC BEHAVIOR OF THE DOLLAR.

4. EARLY IN THE WEEK THE AMERICAN BALLOONISTS' FIRST TRANSATLANTIC CROSSING CAPTURED HEADLINES, AND THERE WAS DETAILED LIVE TELEVISION COVERAGE OF RAY'S TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE. AS WELL, THE BUILDUP TO THE ELECTION OF THE NEW POPE HAS BEEN FOLLOWED CLOSELY AND THE DEATH OF KOMO KENYATTA, WAS THE SUBJECT OF SOME EDITORIAL COMMENT.

5. IN WELLINGTON, THE VISIT OF THE GUIDED MISSILE CRUISER USS HORNE, BROUGHT CONSIDERABLE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, ESPECIALLY FROM THE SHIP'S TWO BAND CONCERTS, ONE OF WHICH ATTRACTED AN ATTENDANCE ESTIMATED AT 6000.

6. THE POST'S SECOND ELECTRONIC DIALOGUE OF THE YEAR, INVOLVING ECONOMIST PAUL SAMUELSON AND THE NEW ZEALAND ECONOMISTS' ASSOCIATION AT HAMILTON PROVED TO BE A MAJOR SUCCESS. AFTER TRANSMISSION DIFFICULTIES WITH THE PREVIOUS DIALOGUE, THE NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICE SORTED OUT THE PROBLEM AND SAMUELSON WAS ABLE TO TAKE PART IN A HALF-HOUR QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION ATTENDED BY EIGHTY OF NEW ZEALAND'S LEADING ECONOMISTS, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S THINK TANK. THE ASSOCIATION EXPRESSED

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SATISFACTION AT THE SAMUELSON VIDEOTAPE AND THE DIALOGUE AND THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS FOR TRANSCRIPTS OF BOTH.

7. AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND AMERICAN STUDIES CONFERENCE TOOK PLACE AT CANTERBURY UNIVERSITY, CHRISTCHURCH FROM AUGUST 21-24. AS PART OF POST PROJECT NZ-01, ICA WELLINGTON ASSISTED THE CONFERENCE BY PROVIDING AS SPEAKERS ALFRED KAZIN AND PROFESSOR HUGGINS. IN ADDITION, THE POLITICAL COUNSELLOR OF THE EMBASSY PARTICIPATED IN A SYMPOSIUM ON N.Z.-U.S. RELATIONS AND THE AMBASSADOR HAD A RECEPTION FOR THE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS. PROFESSOR HUGGINS SPOKE ON "CHANGING AMERICAN POLITICAL CULTURE" TO ABOUT 60 ATTENDEES. KAZIN, TALKING ON THE SUBJECT OF "HENRY ADAMS AND THE SELF AS HISTORY," SPOKE FLUENTLY AND GAINED THE FULL ATTENTION OF HIS 100-ODD AUDIENCE. THIS SESSION LASTED ONE AND ONE-HALF HOURS WITH AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION IN A LIVELY QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD.

8. ICA WELLINGTON'S LIBRARIAN ADDRESSED THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CANTERBURY BRANCH OF THE N.Z. LIBRARY

ASSOCIATION ON MONDAY, AUGUST 21 AT CHRISTCHURCH. SHE
DESCRIBED THE NEW U.S. GOVERNMENT REFERENCE FILE ON FICHE
AND HOW THE WELLINGTON AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER CAN HELP
LIBRARIANS LOCATE RECENT GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS THROUGH
THIS NEW SERVICE. ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SUMMARIES
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1613745
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
TAGS: PINT, EFIN, NZ
To: ICA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6a3c755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014